

Summer School

Roman rituals: dynamics, topography and objects.

Introduction to Roman religion through the prism of its materiality

Rome, 11-15 September 2023



Relief with priestly attributes, Roman National Museum, no. inv. 752 /DAI 37249

The Summer School *Roman rituals: dynamics, topography and objects. Introduction to Roman religion through the prism of its materiality*, which will take place in Rome from 11 to 15 September 2023, is aimed at young researchers working on Roman religion.

The focus of both the conferences and presentations will be on the materiality of Roman religion through cultic practices. Ritual dynamics aim at bringing together groups and individuals on the one hand and deities on the other, in a wide variety of contexts (civic, urban, associative, or domestic). These rites are characterized by a material dimension that should be investigated beyond the attention paid to sacrifices and images. Roman cultic practices are indeed anchored to spaces and imply the presence of objects. Ritual places (fixed, such as temples or chapels, or ephemeral such as the spaces used during processions) and objects (manipulated, offered, or ‘assisting’ the cult) will thus be studied as mediators and agents of the dialogue between humans and deities. To what extent do they interact and contribute, in their form and materiality, to the construction and representation of gods and rites (gestures and movements)? To what extent places and objects can be regarded as ‘powerful’, i.e. able to provide stability and protection to the groups and individuals involved in the rites? Do places and objects elicit ritual or emotional responses? The aim of the Summer School is to examine the ritual agency that places and objects mobilized in rituals arouse through their form and materiality.

Organisers

Giorgio Ferri (Sapienza Università di Roma), Francesca Prescendi Morresi (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris), Jörg Rüpke (Erfurt, Max Weber Kolleg, KFG “Religion and Urbanity”), Françoise Van Haepelen (Université catholique de Louvain – B – Louvain-la-Neuve)



Programme

Monday 11:

Istituto Archeologico Germanico, Villino Amelung, via Andrea Cesalpino 1

9.00-12.30: general introduction, presentations by organisers

14.30-18.00: presentations by organisers and by participants on their current research

Tuesday 12:

morning: visit to an archaeological site of Rome (Capitoline excavations)

14:30-18:00: **Università La Sapienza Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5**

presentations by participants on their current research

Wednesday 13:

morning: visit to an archaeological site of Rome (Palatine excavations)

14:30-18:00: **French School of Rome, Piazza Farnese**

presentations by participants on their current research

Thursday 14:

morning: Conference in Atrium Vestae and visit to the Forum Romanum and Forum of Caesar

14.00-16.30: **Academia Belgica** Via Omero, 8

presentations by participants on their current research

16:40: **Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia**, Piazzale di Villa Giulia 9

presentations and aperitif

Friday 15: Museo Nazionale Romano, Palazzo Massimo, Largo di Villa Peretti 2; Alle Terme, Viale Enrico de Nicola, 78

9.00-12.30: Final workshop and conclusions

Practical information





Duration

The Summer School will take place in September, from Monday 11 to Friday 15 (morning). Arrival is expected during the day or evening of Sunday 10 September.

Eligibility

The Summer School is open to 15 participants: doctoral students, young researchers (postdocs), and to outstanding master's students (if their request is duly justified).

Proposals

Please send to romanreligionssummerschool@gmail.com:

- a letter of motivation (max. 500 words)
- a synthetic CV (max. 1000 words), indicating your educational background and the main focus(es) of your research.
- a short description (max. 300 words) of your paper proposal

The deadline for sending your proposals is 31 March 2023

Evaluation and registration:

The results of the evaluation process will be announced on **21 April**. **The registration will be completed at a later stage after the payment of 80 euros by each candidate.**

Fees

Participants will be able to stay at the reduced rate of EUR 50 per room per night (EUR 250 for the week) at the Residenza Conti, Via Prenestina 230/c. Each participant can request a refund from his/her home university. The organizers are applying for scholarships to cover the costs, but the outcome will not be known until the summer. Meals will be paid by the participants, with the exception of some communal dinners and coffee breaks offered by the organization.

Certificate and ECTS

Organizers may issue a certificate of participation and validation credits (up to 10 ECTS; to be confirmed at a later stage)

Languages accepted for communications: Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese. In the case of a language other than English, the preparation of bilingual materials (handouts, powerpoint, etc.) is strongly recommended.

Partnerships / Staff members

Alessandro Saggioro (Sapienza Università di Roma), Rubina Raja (Urbnet, Aarhus), Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Rom, École Française de Rome, Academia Belgica di Roma, Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia, Museo Nazionale Romano, Université Franco-Italienne.

